

clause establishing a line running due east and west from the southern bend of Lake Michigan, as the southern boundary of the fourth and fifth states to be formed out of the Northwest Territory. It was incidentally argued that as Michigan was to be the fourth state to be thus erected, the fifth state, Wisconsin, when it came to be established, should embrace all that portion of Michigan Territory lying west of the meridian of Mackinaw and the middle of Lake Michigan.<sup>1</sup> At the conclusion of the argument, Mr. Preston asked how much territory lay west of Lake Michigan. The reply was, that there was probably one hundred thousand square miles, although it had not yet been surveyed. Mr. Preston expressed the opinion that this was altogether too large a tract for one state, and produced a map which was similar to one drawn by L. Judson, and in 1838 published "by order of the legislative assembly of Wisconsin." This map was supposed to be the most accurate extant, but it erred greatly in many important particulars. It represented the Montreal and Menomonee rivers as meeting in Lake Vieux Desert, thus making an island out of the northern peninsula. Mr. Preston now drew a finger along this alleged river highway between Green bay and Lake Superior and remarked that he "thought that would be a fair division of the country."

Delegate Lucius Lyon of Michigan protested against this, saying that his people "did not wish to so extend their state; that for a great part of the year nature had separated the upper and lower peninsulas by impassable barriers, and that there could never be any identity of interest or community of feeling between them."<sup>2</sup>

The view taken by Senator Preston, however, appears to have been regarded by a majority of his fellow committeemen as a sound one. At all events, it was just then very desirable, politically, to conciliate Ohio and yet keep good friends with Michigan, who would soon become a member of the Union. So the territorial claims of Ohio were favorably reported upon by the committee, and it was informally

<sup>1</sup> *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iv., p. 352.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, p. 353.